The GOHSEP FOCUS | September 2019

The Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Newsletter

Request For 2019 Flood Fight Major Disaster Approved

September 20, 2019 - Governor John Bel Edwards announced that President Donald J. Trump has declared a major disaster for the State of Louisiana because of historic flooding that occurred along the Mississippi River and its tributaries earlier this year. Governor Edwards made the request to allow the federal government to supplement the flood fight costs for state and local agencies along with damage incurred to public infrastructure.

Governor Edwards said, "The Mississippi River remained above flood stage for the longest period in recorded history. I appreciate President Trump recognizing the protective measures and assistance needed by the state and our local partners while dealing with these historic conditions. Our local levee districts and parishes have incurred great costs for patrols and temporary repair efforts, and state agencies took extraordinary measures to protect the public. While the incident period approved differs somewhat from my request, the Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (GOHSEP) will continue to work with FEMA on this issue."

The disaster declaration approval covers **Public Assistance Categories A-G**: debris removal, emergency protective measures and permanent work on infrastructure such as roads, bridges, water control facilities, buildings, equipment, utilities and parks. It includes **Assumption**, **Caldwell**, **Catahoula**, **Concordia**, **East Carroll**, **Franklin**, **Iberville**, **Ouachita**, **Pointe Coupee**, **Rapides**, **St. Martin**, **Terrebonne** and **West Feliciana Parishes**. Note: **St. Mary Parish** was approved in a previous declaration.

When Governor
Edwards declared a
state of emergency for
Louisiana effective February 26, 2019, he directed the execution of
the State Emergency
Plan. At that point, state
assets coordinated with
and supplemented local
assets for preserving
public health and safe-



ty, as well as improved property. Those emergency protective measures continued well into the summer.

DESIGNATIONS AND TYPES OF ASSISTANCE APPROVED:

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE (Assistance for emergency work and the repair or replacement of disaster-damaged facilities): Assumption, Caldwell, Catahoula, Concordia, East Carroll, Franklin, Iberville, Ouachita, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Martin, Terrebonne and West Feliciana Parishes.

HAZARD MITIGATION GRANT PROGRAM (Assistance for actions taken to prevent or reduce long-term risk to life and property from natural hazards):

All areas in the State of Louisiana are eligible for assistance under the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program.

OTHER: Additional parishes may be added later if requested by the state and if warranted by the results of further damage assessments.

From The Director



Hello Everyone,

We are wrapping up National Preparedness Month and moving into Cybersecurity Month for October. I was recently invited to be a panelist at the 2nd Annual National Cybersecurity Summit, presented by the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) and the US Department of Homeland Security. I was able to learn more about the growing demand to address cyber related issues in Emergency Management. I was also able to highlight our state's actions during the recent cyber emergency impacting school districts and several parishes across Louisiana. Our efforts dealing with that situation have once again set the standard for many to follow. It is important for us to stay in front of these potential threats and

have the resources needed to protect the public.

In addition to many tropical threats in recent weeks, this is also a time of year to focus on fire prevention. Several parishes are already under a burn ban as things traditionally dry out during the fall. The Louisiana State Fire Marshal's office will be sharing information for Fire Prevention Week beginning October 6th. Expect information dealing with home fire drills, updating your smoke alarms and reminders about testing those alarms and changing batteries.

I urge everyone to stay vigilant and weather aware during the home stretch of hurricane season. Thanks for all you do keeping our citizens safe.

SBA Offers Disaster Assistance To Louisiana Businesses And Residents Affected By Hurricane Barry

September 11, 2019 - Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to Louisiana businesses and residents affected by Hurricane Barry that occurred July 10-15, 2019, announced acting Administrator Christopher M. Pilkerton of the U.S. Small Business Administration. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to a request SBA received from Governor John Bel Edwards on Sept. 9, 2019.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in Allen, Assumption, Avoyelles, Beauregard, Catahoula, Concordia, Evangeline, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, La Salle, Pointe Coupee, Rapides, St. Landry, St. Martin, St. Mary, Terrebonne, Vernon and West Feliciana parishes.

"SBA is strongly committed to providing Louisiana with the most effective and customer-focused response possible, and we will be there to provide access to federal disaster loans to help finance recovery for businesses and residents affected by the disaster," said Pilkerton. "Getting our businesses and communities up and running after a disaster is our highest priority at SBA."

"Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters whose property was damaged or destroyed by this disaster," said SBA's Director Tanya N. Garfield of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Disaster Field Operations Center-West. "Beginning Friday, Sept. 13, SBA representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Centers to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," Garfield continued. The centers will be open on the days and times indicated below. No appointment is necessary.

ALLEN PARISH

Disaster Loan Outreach Center Allen Parish Civic Center 609 Tiger Lane, Oberlin, LA 70655 Opens 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 13 Mondays - Fridays, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Closes 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26

AVOYELLES PARISH

Disaster Loan Outreach Center **Avoyelles Parish Library** 600 North Main St.. Marksville, LA 71351 Opens 8 a.m. Friday, Sept. 13 Mondays - Fridays, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

ST. MARY PARISH

Disaster Loan Outreach Center

Patterson Civic Center

116 Cotton Road, Patterson, LA 70392

Opens 9 a.m. Friday, Sept. 13

Mondays - Fridays, 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Closes 6 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 26

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to businesses and homeowners to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize the same type of disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property.

Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 2.75 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 1.938 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Applicants may apply online, receive additional disaster assistance information and download applications at https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela. Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at (800) 659-2955 or email disastercustomer-service@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call (800) 877-8339. Completed applications should be mailed to U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The deadline to apply for property damage is Nov. 12, 2019. The deadline to apply for economic injury is June 11, 2020.

For questions or comments, please contact Mike Steele at mike.steele@la.gov.

About the U.S. Small Business Administration

The U.S. Small Business Administration makes the American dream of business ownership a reality. As the only go-to resource and voice for small businesses backed by the strength of the federal government, the SBA empowers entrepreneurs and small business owners with the resources and support they need to start, grow or expand their businesses, or recover from a declared disaster. It delivers services through an extensive network of SBA field offices and partnerships with public and private organizations. To learn more, visit www.sba.gov.

State Announces Public Hearings, Seeks Public Input On Plan To Spend \$1.2 Billion In Flood Mitigation Funds

The Louisiana Office of Community Development seeks public input on the state's Action Plan for \$1.2 billion in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funds. The plan details the state's approach for using the funds, including projects, data collection and modeling, and policy measures that advance the Louisiana Watershed Initiative's long-term resilience objectives.

The state will hold/has held the following public hearings to solicit input and feedback on the Action Plan. The meetings will also be livestreamed on the Louisiana Watershed Initiative's Facebook pagewww.facebook.com/lawatershedinitiative.

1 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 19 City-Parish Council Auditorium Lafayette Consolidated Government 705 W. University Ave. Lafayette, LA 70506

1:30 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 24 Ouachita Parish Emergency Operations Ctr./Fire Depart. Training Ctr. 1000 New Natchitoches Road West Monroe, LA 71292

1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 25 House Committee Room 5 Louisiana State Capitol 900 N. Third Street Baton Rouge, LA 70802

6 p.m. Tuesday, Oct. 29 Council Chambers, Building A St. Tammany Parish Government Administrative Complex 21490 Koop Drive

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Louisiana's Watershed Regions

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development released requirements August 23, including:

- Funds must be used toward mitigation activities.
- At least 50 percent of the funds must benefit the 10 parishes identified by HUD as most impacted and distressed by the 2016 floods: Acadia, Ascension, East Baton Rouge, Lafayette, Livingston, Ouachita, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Vermilion and Washington.
- Funds must be fully expended within 12 years of grant execution.

The state is aligning its draft Action Plan to its federally approved hazard mitigation plan and HUD's guidance to ensure consistency and efficiency across flood-mitigation efforts, as well as leveraging feedback received during recent statewide outreach initiatives.

The state will accept public comments online at www.doa.la.gov/Pages/ocd-dru/Index.aspx, beginning September 26, and via email, mail, fax or in person at these public hearings. All comments will be included in the Action Plan submitted to HUD.

To request special accommodations for an upcoming hearing, email watershed@la.gov or call (225) 219-9600. For more information, go to www.watershed.la.gov/action-plan.

For questions or comments, please contact Mike Steele at mike.steele@la.gov.



OUISIANA About the Louisiana Watershed Initiative

Governor John Bel Edwards established the Council on Watershed Management in 2018, which serves as the coordinated, interagency organization at the state level for watershed-based flood risk reduction. The Louisiana Watershed Initiative serves as the Council's programmatic arm under which all related efforts operate.



About the Louisiana Office of Community Development

The Disaster Recovery Unit within the Division of Administration's Office of Community Development is dedicated to helping Louisiana's residents recover from hurricanes Katrina, Rita, Gustav, Ike, Isaac and the Great Floods of 2016. As the state's central point for disaster recovery, OCD-DRU manages the most extensive rebuilding efforts in American history, working closely with local, state and federal partners to ensure that Louisiana's recovery is safer, stronger and smarter than before.

Damage Assessment Training At MOHSEP

Baton Rouge - When disaster strikes, local and state leaders must be able to provide adequate information to determine needs for Disaster Assistance. This information is vital to response and recovery, and helps set priorities, identify needs for additional resources, and creates a historical overview for use in future mitigation planning. When the magnitude of an incident or threat of incident exceeds the affected state or local government capability to respond or recover, federal disaster assistance may be possible. Thus, damage assessment is essential.

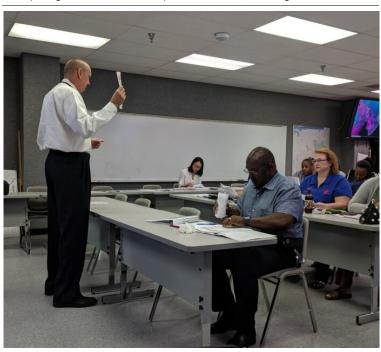
The information gathered by Damage Assessment Teams provides a snapshot of the disaster and details the extent and location of damages. This data helps communities recover, and may provide financial assistance if damages meet standards and the threshold levels set forth by federal program guidelines.

Damage Assessment Training, including processes, activities, and requirements, for Public Assistance (PA) and Individual Assistance (IA) was conducted at the Mayor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness (MOHSEP) on Thursday, September 12, 2019 at the Advanced Traffic Management/Emergency Operations Center for East Baton Rouge Parish. Participants included personnel from the local Public Works, Permits and Inspection agencies.

GOHSEP's Community Preparedness Section will continue outreach and training efforts to expand and build local Preliminary Damage Assessment Teams as well as educate the public about the declaration process and overview of disaster assistance programs. "Preparedness is more than just a bottle water and a peanut butter sandwich", said Rubby Douglas, Preparedness Section Chief. "It is important to understand what individuals must do to protect property and lives at home, as federal assistance is not automatic nor guaranteed". Since Louisiana has its share of severe weather and other events, it is critical that education and



Rubby Douglas with GOHSEP's Preparedness Section, teaching a PDA class.



GOHSEP's Joe Costello instructs a PDA course at MOSHEP.

knowledge be provided that can empower and encourage individuals and communities to action. Parishes are encouraged to request similar training for their personnel and may do so by contacting GOHSEP's Preparedness Section.

For more information you may contact Rubby Douglas at rubby.douglas2@la.gov.

The Latest GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast is Available

September is National Preparedness Month!

On this month's episode of The GOHSEP Get A Game Plan Podcast, we explain why this is a great time to get information to help protect you, your family, your home and your business. GOHSEP and



many of our partners at the local, state and federal levels with provide tips to help you finalize your plans.

On this episode, you will hear from people working on that type of outreach for GOHSEP and hear from a local official working with members of his community (including young people) to help prepare, respond to and recover from an emergency.



Find a link at GetAGamePlan.org or download and subscribe to the podcast from Spotify or any other major podcast store. or many other podcast stores.

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Parish Profile - Ascension



Joseph Latino's (center right) with members of the Ascension Parish Council at his recent award ceremony.



Ascension Parish Council Recognizes Deaf Interpreter

As Barry approached the Louisiana coast, a video of an animated interpreter for the hearing impaired went viral on social media.

Joseph "Air" Latino was honored by the Ascension Parish Council last week for his outstanding services providing translation for the hearing impaired during televised updates of Hurricane Barry, according to a news release.

During July, under a declared state of emergency, Latino distinguished himself by providing critical hearing impaired translation services to the residents of Ascension Parish, Louisiana during live press conferences, according to the release. The emergency press conferences were conducted by the Ascension Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness from its unified Joint

Information Center.

Video clips of Latino's skills were shared thousands of times on Facebook and other social media sites.

Article and photo courtesy of The Advocate.

Founded: 1807

Named For:

Ascension of Our Lord
Church in Donaldsonville

Largest City: Prairieville

Total Area: 303 square miles

Population (2015): 119,455



OHSEP Interim Director Rachael Baker Wilkinson

(225) 450-1208 @ rwilkinson@apgov.us

www.ascensionparish.net/index.php/departments/m-z/office-of-homeland-security-and-emergency-preparedness

Alabama EM Team Visits



A few of our counterparts from the Alabama Emergency Management Agency stopped by to meet with our staff and tour the state emergency operations center. Potential emergencies for both states are often similar. It's always great to share information with our Gulf Coast

partners. Alabama Emergency Management Agency #nationalpreparednessmonth.

For more information visit AEMA's website: ema.alabama.gov



GOHSEP's Mike Hamilton and Casey Tingle brief our Alabama visitors (center).

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2nd Annual National Cybersecurity Summit



GOHSEP Director Waskom participates in a summit panel

National Harbor, Maryland - GOHSEP Director Jim Waskom was honored to be one of the panelists recently at the 2nd Annual Cybersecurity Summit that took place in Maryland. Director Waskom highlighted Louisiana's recent cyber emergency and other state initiatives.

What is the National Cybersecurity Summit?

The Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) bring together critical infrastructure stakeholders from around the world to a forum with presentations focused on emerging technologies, vulnerability management, incident response, risk mitigation, and other current cybersecurity topics at the 2nd Annual National Cybersecurity Summit. The Summit provides the opportunity for Federal, state, local, tribal, and territorial agencies, private sector organizations,

and international partners to highlight successes and opportunities for collective action.

For more information about the summit, visit: www.us-cert.gov/event/2019-cisa-cybersecurity-summit

Protecting Your Digital Life



Quick tips for protecting your digital information:

- Use long passwords or pass-phrases. A pass-phrase (ie: unique sentence) is easier to remember than a complex password. Passwords longer than 16 characters makes for good strength. Shorter length passwords may be subject to both brute force and dictionary attacks (list of commonly used passwords). Don't use the same pass code for all your accounts or devices. Change your passwords periodically.
- Install security software. Viruses and other online threats can corrupt your files and cause system damage or failure. Make sure you have up-to-date antispyware, antivirus and firewall protection.
- Backup, Backup, Backup Despite the best of intentions, many people will forget to back up their data on a regular basis. If using an online backup service, only use sites that encrypt data and transmit files through a

secure connection, especially when you're backing up important financial documents. Back up your laptop and mobile devices! Many people protect data on their primary computers, but forget about laptops and other mobile devices. These carry a greater risk of loss and theft, so take extra care to back them up. Pick a storage spot for local backups. You may want to back up larger files onto a CD, DVD or external hard drive. However, be sure to store those devices away from your primary computer to protect against theft and natural disaster.

- Free isn't better. Don't rely on free sites to archive your digital photos. Some have policies of deleting pictures if you don't access your account within a set time period.
- Protect your privacy. If you use social media, anything you provide is potentially public information. Understand and control your public presence. Only share information that you are comfortable with and that won't compromise yourself, family or friends.
- Avoid actions that put data at risk. Don't open attachments from strangers, avoid questionable Web sites and only download software from sites you trust.
- 7. Consider the value of your files. What are your priceless photos, music and irreplaceable files worth? How much time and at what cost would it take to replace your music library. Give your important files the protection they deserve



Held every October, **National Cybersecurity Awareness Month** (NCSAM) is a collaborative effort between government and industry to raise awareness about the importance of cybersecurity and to ensure that all Americans have the resources they need to be safer and more secure online.

For more information visit: niccs.us-cert.gov/national-cybersecurity-awareness-month-2019

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS For questions or comments about the birthdays, contact: Tiffany Johnson - tiffany.l.johnson@la.gov Cheri Scott (Homeland Security Management) 09/02 Peter Evans (State Management Cost) 09/16 09/02 Alisha Coates (Hazard Mitigation Grants) 09/17 Clayton Revere (Legal) 09/03 Jennifer Larke (Recovery Grants) Bridgette Pulliam (Public Assistance Closeout) 09/19 Anitra Adams (Public Assistance SALs) 09/04 Marion Pearson (Hazard Mitigation Services) 09/20 Arika Smith (Public Assistance Management) 09/04 Steven Burr (Facility Management) 09/20 Victoria Ehrensing (Public Assistance Grants) 09/06 Darryl Delatte (Regional Coordination) 09/20 Pierre Conrad (Recovery Grants) 09/07 Lauren Benoit (Public Assistance Grants) 09/21 Casca Payne (Public Assistance Closeout) 09/10 Allison Hadley (Public Assistance Disaster Oversight) 09/22 **Tiffany Johnson** (Grants & Admin. Management) 09/10 Mark Heidenthal (State Management Cost) 09/23 Brenda Aguillard (Sub-Recipient Monitoring) 09/13 Todd Hollenbaug (Operations) 09/25 09/28 **Jaron Herd** (Public Assistance Technical Services) 09/13 Willie Durio (Recovery Grants)

09/15

UPCOMING EVENTS

Heather Ewing (Hazard Mitigation SALs)

To sign up or for more information about the training, visit: gohsep.la.gov/resources/training-events-schedule

	Oct 7-8, 2019	ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Gray, Louisiana
TRAINING	Oct 9-10, 2019	Louisiana Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (LA-CBRNE) Workshop - Amite, Louisiana
	Oct 11, 2019	ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System - Lafayette, Louisiana
	Oct 14-18, 2019	Communications Unit Technician (COMT) - Gonzales, Louisiana
	Oct 23-24, 2019	MGT 345 Disaster Management for Electric Power Systems - New Orleans, Louisiana
	Oct 28-30, 2019	PER 340 Active Threat Integrated Response Course - Kenner, Louisiana
	Oct 29-30, 2019	ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
	Oct 31-Nov 1, 2019	PER-335 Critical Decision Making for Complex Coordinated Attacks - Kenner, Louisiana
	Nov 4-5, 2019	AWR 122 Law Enforcement Prevention & Deterrence of Terrorist Acts - Scott, Louisiana
	Nov 5-6, 2019	ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - DeRidder, Louisiana
	Nov 4-6, 2019	PER-340 Active Threat Integrated Response Course (ATIRC) - Kenner, Louisiana
	Nov 6-7, 2019	ICS 300 Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents for Operational First Responders - Alexandria, Louisiana
	Nov 7-8, 2019	ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System - DeRidder, Louisiana
	Nov 8, 2019	ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System - Alexandria, Louisiana
	Nov 13, 2019	ICS 400 Advanced Incident Command System - Baton Rouge, Louisiana
	Nov 13-14, 2019	MGT 317 Disaster Management for Public Services - New Orleans, Louisiana
	Dec 3-4, 2019	MGT-319 Medical Countermeasures: Point of Dispensing, Plan & Response - Monroe, Louisiana
	Dec 4-5, 2019	MGT 341 Disaster Preparedness for Hospitals & Healthcare Organizations - New Orleans, Louisiana
	Dec 9-11, 2019	PER 229 Intro to Computer-Aided Management of Emergency Operations (CAMEO) - Lake Charles, Louisiana
	Jan 28-29, 2020	MGT 343 - Disaster Management for Water & Wastewater Utilities - Chalmette, Louisiana

NEW AGENCY HIRES

PROMOTIONS

Heather Sullivan Tsz Lee

Preparedness Officer (Preparedness)

Problem Resolution Officer (Recovery Grants)

RETIREMENTS

Andreas Hansen

Sept. 27, 2019 (Facility Management)

UPCOMING STATE HOLIDAYS

Veterans Day - Nov. 11, 2019 Thanksgiving Day - Nov. 28, 2019

Acadiana Day - Nov. 29, 2019 (pending Governor's proclamation)

Request For Articles

If you would like to include an article in future issues of *The GOHSEP Focus*, please contact: Your designated Agency

Representative or | Mike Steele | Steven Burr

(225) 925-3966 mike.steele@la.gov Steven Burr (225) 925-7423 steve.burr@la.gov



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